



Montana Barley Varieties 2007

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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Montana farmers seeded 900,000 acres of barley in 2007, up from 770,000 acres in 2006. Nearly fifty-seven percent of the acres seeded to barley were malting and brewing varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association, Inc., (AMBA) for use in Montana. The top variety seeded in Montana was Harrington, maintaining its position for the fourteenth consecutive year.

MALTING VARIETIES

Harrington remains the top variety planted in the state for the fourteenth year in a row. It was seeded on 201,900 acres or 22.4 percent of Montana's barley acreage. Harrington has been recommended by the AMBA since 1989. It is a two-rowed malting barley variety developed by the University of Saskatchewan. It matures one day earlier than AC Metcalfe. It is susceptible to leaf diseases (net blotch, scald), stem rust, and loose smut. It has a long, rough awn and a white aleurone.

AC Metcalfe is in second place again this year, with 175,100 acres planted, accounting for 19.5 percent of Montana's barley acreage. It is a two-rowed malting barley developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, located in Brandon, Manitoba. This variety is recommended by the AMBA. It has a 7 percent higher yield and matures one day later than Harrington. It is resistant to loose smut, and is moderately resistant to the spot-form of net blotch, surface-borne smuts, and common root rot. It is susceptible to scald and spetoria.

B Merit is the third most common malting barley variety planted in the state this year. Montana farmers seeded 56,000 acres of B Merit or 6.2 percent of this year's total barley acreage. B Merit is a two-rowed, mid-maturing, mid-dense head barley adapted to the West's InterMountain barley producing region. Glume hair is long and confined to a band. Seed is covered, finely wrinkled with wax present, and the aleurone is colorless. It is resistant to net blotch and moderately resistant to scald. B Merit is a spring barley bred and developed by Busch Agricultural Resources, Inc. B Merit was recommended by the AMBA in 2007.

Moravian 37 is ranked the fourth leading malting barley variety seeded for the 2007 crop year. A total of 27,500 acres or 3.1 percent of all barley is planted to the variety. This variety is a two-rowed spring malt barley released by Coors Brewing Company. Moravian 37 has a slightly higher yield and test weight than Galena. Height and straw strength are similar, but heading date is earlier than Galena. It is a rough-awned variety and is standard in height. It is resisitant to lodging and is very plump with a high level of stress tolerance and excellent yields. Glume hair is long and the aleurone is white.

FORAGE VARIETIES

Haybet remains the top forage barley variety seeded for the eighth year in a row, with 108,200 acres seeded or 12.0 percent of the total barley acres seeded in Montana for 2007. Haybet, as the name implies, is used primarily for hay. It was developed cooperatively by the Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station in 1989. It is a two-rowed, hooded, white-kerneled spring hay barley. Compared to Horsford hay barley, Haybet is 3 days later in heading and similar in plant height and percent lodging. Haybet is higher in hay yield than Horsford, but they are similar in grain yield.

Hays is the second most common forage barley variety seeded this year with 22,500 acres or 2.5 percent of the state barley acres. Hays moved from twelfth position in 2006 to eighth position in 2007 for all barley planted. It is a two-rowed hooded hay barley developed by Montana State University, and it is a cross between Haybet and Baronesse varieties. Forage yields are similar to Haybet and higher than Westford. Hays is approximately three inches shorter and two days later in heading than Haybet. The two varieties have similar test weights.

FEED VARIETIES

Haxby is the top variety planted for feed purposes in 2007. It was seeded on 35,300 acres this year and represents 3.9 percent of the state total. It moved up in 2007 to fifth place from fifteenth place in 2006 for all varieties seeded in Montana. Haxby is a two-rowed barley developed by Montana State University. Yields are equal to Baronesse and Eslick and higher than Gallatin and Valier. This variety is medium in height and medium in maturity. It has superior performance in low moisture conditions, and it has very high test weights in both dryland and irrigated areas.

Baronesse is the second most popular feed barley variety seeded this year. It was seeded on 25,000 acres or 2.8 percent of the state's barley acreage. Developed in Germany and distributed by the Western Plant Breeders in the U.S., it is a two-rowed, rough-awned spring barley. This variety is medium-short in height and medium in maturity. It has excellent irrigated yield potential and is easily adaptable to dryland conditions. It is highly resistant to lodging and moderately resistant to net blotch.

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